

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

1. (Original) A method for delivering an anchor for use in a gastric reduction system for reducing the cross-sectional area of a gastrointestinal lumen, comprising:
 - providing a delivery catheter having a needle translatably disposed therein, a distal end, a stabilization device disposed at the distal end and one or more anchors disposed within the needle;
 - advancing the delivery catheter into the gastrointestinal lumen;
 - engaging the stabilization device to a tissue wall of the gastrointestinal lumen;
 - advancing the needle through the tissue wall;
 - ejecting an anchor from a distal tip of the needle.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing an imaging element in the vicinity of the distal end of the delivery catheter; and using the imaging element to provide visual guidance during engagement of the stabilization device to the tissue wall.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein ejecting an anchor from a distal tip of the needle comprises translating a push rod disposed in the needle.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the stabilization device comprises a coil having a sharpened tip, and engaging the stabilization device to the tissue wall comprises rotating the coil to engage the coil into the tissue wall.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein advancing the needle through the tissue wall further comprises translating the needle distally through the delivery catheter.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for reducing the cross-sectional area of a gastrointestinal lumen~~, comprising:

providing a delivery catheter including a piercing element within the catheter needle ~~translatably disposed therein~~, one or more anchors ~~disposed~~ within the catheter and a suture coupled to the anchors ~~each anchor~~;

advancing the delivery catheter into the gastrointestinal ~~lumen~~ tract of a patient;

advancing the piercing element ~~needle~~ through ~~[[the]]~~ a first tissue wall, and then through a second tissue wall;

ejecting ~~[[an]]~~ a first anchor from a distal tip of the needle through the piercing element on a first side of the first tissue wall, and ejecting a second anchor from the piercing element on a second side of the second tissue wall;

~~advancing the needle through an opposing tissue wall~~;

~~ejecting an anchor from a distal tip of the needle through the opposing tissue wall~~;

and

~~applying tension to the sutures to approximate the tissue walls~~.

such that the first and second anchors and the suture hold the first tissue wall adjacent to the second tissue wall.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising: providing a stabilization device ~~disposed on a distal end of the delivery catheter~~; ~~and prior to advancing the needle through the tissue wall~~, engaging the stabilization device to the first tissue wall before advancing the catheter through the first tissue wall.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the stabilization device comprises a tissue holding element ~~coil having a sharpened distal tip~~, ~~the method further comprising rotating the coil to engage the tissue wall to stabilize the tissue during anchor delivery~~.

10-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising: providing an imaging element in the vicinity of the distal end of the delivery catheter; and using the imaging element to provide visual guidance.

17-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a gastrointestinal tissue fold, comprising:

providing a delivery catheter having a translatable needle, ~~a jaw assembly, and~~ an anchor disposed within the needle and a suture coupled to the anchor;
~~grabbing~~ engaging and pulling a tissue wall of the gastrointestinal lumen ~~using the jaw assembly~~ to create a tissue fold;
extending the needle through the tissue fold;
ejecting the anchor from the needle; and
maintaining the tissue fold via the anchor and ~~by applying tension to~~ the suture.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising: providing a second anchor including a suture coupled thereto; and creating a second tissue fold on an opposing tissue wall.

28-31. (Cancelled).

32. (New) A method comprising:
moving a catheter into a patient;
holding a tissue fold within the patient;
extending a piercing element from the catheter through the tissue fold;
moving a first anchor out from the piercing element, on a first side of the tissue fold;
withdrawing the piercing element from the tissue fold;
moving a second anchor out from the piercing element, on a second side of the tissue fold; and

holding the tissue fold via a connection element connecting the first and second anchors.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein forming the tissue fold results in reducing the cross sectional area of a lumen in the patient.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein forming the tissue fold reduces the volume of an organ in the patient.

35. (New) A method of creating a tissue fold comprising:
moving a catheter to a surgical site of a patient;
engaging and pulling a tissue wall to form a tissue fold;
pushing a piercing element extending out of the catheter through the tissue fold;
ejecting a first anchor from the piercing element;
withdrawing the piercing element from the tissue fold;
ejecting a second anchor from the piercing element;
with the anchors and the suture maintaining the tissue fold.

36. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein bringing the first and second tissue walls adjacent results in reducing the cross sectional area of an opening in the patient.

37. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein bring the first and second tissue walls adjacent result in reducing the volume of an organ of the patient.

38 (New) A method comprising:
providing a system having delivery catheter having a translatable needle and anchors disposed within the needle, and a suture coupled to the anchors;
engaging and pulling a tissue wall of the gastrointestinal tract of a patient to create a tissue fold;
extending the needle through the tissue fold;
placing an anchor on one side of the tissue fold;

releasing the tissue fold;
placing an anchor on the opposite side of the tissue fold , with the anchors connected to each other via the suture; and
with the anchors and suture maintaining the tissue fold after the tissue fold is released.